

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

93- Jesus' Authority Over Disease; Disabilities; Demons; and Death- Part 4

Church April 07, 2024

Matthew 9:18-35

18 While He was saying these things to them, a synagogue official came and bowed down before Him, and said, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live."

19 Jesus got up and began to follow him, and so did His disciples.

20 And a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak;

21 for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch His garment, I will get well."

22 But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well." At once the woman was made well.

23 When Jesus came into the official's house, and saw the flute-players and the crowd in noisy disorder,

24 He said, "Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep." And they began laughing at Him.

25 But when the crowd had been sent out, He entered and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.

26 This news spread throughout all that land.

27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

28 When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith."

30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them: "See that no one knows about this!"

31 But they went out and spread the news about Him throughout all that land.

32 As they were going out, a mute, demon-possessed man was brought to Him.

33 After the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

34 But the Pharisees were saying, "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."

35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

The Irony of Death- is that Death is a very important Part of our Lives. Death is all around us; and most of us have lost somebody we love- to the Curse of Death. The Bible says four things about Death:

1. Death was caused by Sin

Romans 5:11

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

2. People Fear Death

Hebrews 2:14&15

**14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,
15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.**

3. Death is an Enemy that will be Abolished

1Corinthians 15:26

The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

4. Those in Jesus will NEVER Die

John 11:25&26a

**25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,
26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die...**

... but until Jesus came and lived and died and rose again- people greatly feared Death. So, Death was the great Equalizer of all men- because ALL will die. But because they feared Death- the Jews were put into emotional and spiritual “Slavery” (**Hebrews 2:14&15**).

So, if Jesus is God- He **MUST** have Authority over Death. And the Death that Jesus **MUST** have Authority over- is understood in two Ways:

1. Natural, physical Death
2. Spiritual, eternal Death

Now having Authority over both of those kinds of Death is the **SAME THING** as having Authority to forgive Sin. And that is true because:

Sin *causes* both kinds of Death

So, when Adam sinned- God cursed him with Death. *Way before* the serpent tempted Eve- God told Adam:

Genesis 2:15-17

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

... and when Adam “wimped out” and obeyed his Wife (instead of leading and protecting her); disobeyed God; and ate the forbidden Fruit- God cursed him.

Genesis 3:17b-19

17 ... Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.

18 “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field;

19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”

... and that “Divine Curse”- passes down from one Generation to the next through the Seed of the Father. So, we too will die. And even though our souls have been wondrously saved- our fleshly Bodies have not. And so, if Jesus does not return before that Time- we will die; and our Bodies will rot in the Grave- until the Time of the Resurrection.

Now I have told you many Times that in order to understand the Bible correctly and fully *requires* that we arrive at the correct Context of whatever verse or Passage we are examining. And the correct Context behind why the Apostle Matthew recorded all these Miracles of Jesus- as to prove- unmistakably- that Jesus, was in fact,

1. God Almighty in a human Body
2. Immanuel
3. The long-awaited Messiah

But the correct Context about this Passage is *also* that the 1st Century Jew was NOT looking for that kind of Messiah. And you can see that by paying Attention to the *unbelievable* Hostility that existed between the incarnate God and the Jewish Leaders. Ancient rabbinical Writings tell us that the Jews were NOT looking for a Messiah to rescue them from God’s Wrath against their Sins. They were looking for a *military* and *political* “Commander” to raise an Army of Jews to accomplish five things:

1. To decimate the Roman occupying force and remove them from all of Israel
2. Expand the Boundaries of Israel (by force) to what they were during the Reign of Solomon
3. Reclaim the dispersed Jews from other Nations where they had been driven
4. Engage in military Campaigns to overthrow the Governments of the “*Gentile Nations of the World*”
5. Rule the entire World from Jerusalem

So, there was a lot of Confusion about Jesus in the minds of the Jews- precisely because they were NOT understanding or believing what the Old Testament taught about Him. And so, they reasoned to themselves- “*If this Man IS the Messiah- why is He NOT spending His Time gathering His Army instead of these Fishermen and Tax-collectors? Why is He NOT attacking the Romans? Why is He personally condemning the Pharisees? Why is He associating with and eating with Tax-collectors and sexually immoral Sinners? Why is He refusing to obey the Teachings of the Pharisees about the Sabbath? Why is He NOT sacrificing animals? Why is*

He NOT submitting Himself to the Authority of the Levitical Priests and the Sanhedrin Court?"

But what Jesus was doing by displaying His absolute Authority over Disease; Disabilities; Demons; and Death- was to fulfill what the Old Testament Prophets had foretold. So, for example, when John the Baptist began to doubt Jesus while he was in Prison awaiting Execution- he sent two of his Disciples to ask Jesus if He was the Messiah- or did they need to keep looking?

Now the Reason behind *why* John sent those men- was because Jesus was NOT doing what John expected. John was expecting Jesus to come to the Prison and get him out. Yet Jesus never even visited him.

And when the Disciples of John asked Jesus if He was the real deal- He replied by quoting from the Prophecy in Isaiah's Burden that talked about the Messiah. So, in **Matthew 11:4b-6**- Jesus replied to them:

**4 ... Go and report to John what you hear and see:
5 the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed
and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE
GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.
6 And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."**

... which is taken from **Isaiah 35:5** and **29:18**.

In other words, Jesus WAS fulfilling what the Old Testament Prophets foretold about the Messiah by displaying His absolute Authority over Disease; Disabilities; Demons; and Death!

Now since it is true that Sin caused Death- forgiving Sin is the SAME THING as having Authority over Death. But having Authority over Death is also the SAME THING as physical Healing- because, as we have already discovered- Disease is Death at work in the Body. So, if Jesus can bring about a temporary Reprieve from the Divine Curse of Death- Sin can be forgiven; sick Bodies can be healed; and dead people can come to Life again!

Now one of the Reasons Jesus healed sick and disabled Bodies; cast out Demons; and raised the Dead- was because the Forgiveness of Sin- is invisible to other people. We can't see with our eyes that somebody's Sin have been forgiven. But we CAN see sick people healed! And we CAN see disabled people- healed! And we CAN see the Results of demons cast out; and we CAN see dead people coming back to Life! And that is *why* the former Tax-collector put this Event in **Matthew 9:2-8**:

2 And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven."

3 And some of the scribes said to themselves, "This fellow blasphemes."

4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?"

5 Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, and walk'?

6 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home."

7 And he got up and went home.

8 But when the crowds saw this, they were awestruck, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

... so, the healing of this paralyzed man was the SAME THING as forgiving him of his Sin.

Now as we continue through **Matthew**- we are going to see astounding Miracles that Jesus performed. And one of the things that stand out about this is- the Scribes and Pharisees NEVER denied the Miracles of Jesus. They NEVER tried to say that people were NOT healed who were healed. They NEVER tried to say that people with Disabilities- who were healed- were not healed. They NEVER denied that Jesus cast out demons; and they NEVER denied that Jesus raised people from the Dead.

But the Reason they did NOT deny these Miracles- is NOT because they believed in Jesus. They didn't. They didn't deny the Miracles- because they couldn't. MOST of the Miracles of Jesus were performed in the open- in front of many people. So, to deny them would have been to deny the Obvious.

But this put these religious Frauds in a bad spot. Because if the Miracles were *legitimate*- they proved that Jesus was God. And if Jesus was God- why did they NOT love and follow Him? So, the Miracles of Jesus really painted these Hypocrites into a Corner. And that is *why* they began to blaspheme the Holy Spirit by saying things like this in **Matthew 12:24b**:

... This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.

So, the Miracles of Jesus *forced* the Pharisees into proving that they were NOT sons of Abraham; they were NOT God's chosen people; and they were NOT accepted by God. For the most part- the Pharisees were unsaved religious Shysters- who were peddling "Doctrines of Demons" that did not honor God; and that did not have the Power to forgive a single Sin or save a single Soul. But instead of falling on their faces and begging God to forgive them- they hardened their hearts and became more and more hostile to the ONLY sinless Man who ever lived.

Now the Bible gives us five Points concerning Miracles and Healings in our Day. And those five Points are:

1. Through Faith- God can and He absolutely does work powerful “Miracles” and “Acts of Providence” to bring practical earthly Help and Deliverance to His people.
2. God does *not* always work Miracles and Acts of Providence for our Deliverance from Suffering; and sometimes- by this very same Faith- God sustains his people *through* their Sufferings.
3. Having Faith or not having Faith is *not* the ultimate determining Factor in whether you suffer or you are delivered. God's sovereign Will and Wisdom and Love takes precedent over our Faith.
4. The common Feature of the Faith that *escapes* Suffering and the Faith that *endures* Suffering is this: both of them involve believing that God Himself is Better than what Life can give to you now; and Better than what Death can take from you later.
5. Those who love God more than Life; and who suffer *willingly*- awaiting something Better than what this earth can offer, are God's great Gifts to the world.

... and that is how we are to understand these supernatural manifestations in our Day.

But now I want to go back and look at what Matthew put into his Gospel Record about two different Miracles in verses 18-26. And in this Account- Matthew combines two different Miracles that Jesus performed:

1. He raised a girl from the Dead (v. 18&19, 23-26)
2. He healed a sick Woman (v. 20-22)

So, let's go over this one verse at a time:

While He was saying these things to them, a synagogue official came and bowed down before Him, and said, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live." (Matthew 9:18)

Now the “things” Jesus was saying had to do with what the Apostle wrote in **Matthew 9:15-17** about Fasting. So, evidently, this “Synagogue Official” was at that Event and had heard Jesus teach those things. And based on that- he desired that Jesus would come to his House and raise his dead daughter back to Life.

Now back in the 1st Century a “*Synagogue Ruler*” was the “chief Administrative Officer”- who organized all the Services. And this “Ruler” had an

assistant called, a “*Synagogue Official*”, who helped the Ruler prepare for each Service. So, it is possible that the man, who spoke to Jesus was the Assistant.

Now I have mentioned this before- but the Concept of the Jews having “Synagogues” was a fabricated Man-made Concept created by the Pharisees during the 400 years of Silence between the Prophet Malachi’s “Burden” and the Angel Gabriel appearing to Zacharias as He was behind the Veil in the Temple in Jerusalem (**Luke 1:5-25**). During that 400 years- there were NO Miracles; NO Prophet; NO Sign or Wonder; and NO Voice from God. Just the deafening Silence that caused the average Jew to fear greatly as to *why* God was silent. And many Jews thought God had *abandoned* them. Others thought God was dead.

So, to help the Jew to hope in God- the followers of Yohanan ben Zakai advocated creating “individual houses of worship”- *wherever* Jews lived. And that was a noble idea- yet it was one that Moses had NEVER commanded.

So, a Group of Jews rose up during that 400 years of Silence that were called, the “*separated ones*” or the “Pharisees”. And the Pharisees took it upon themselves to raise up “*Places for Prayer and Sacrifice*” all through Israel and what they called, the “*Diaspora*”- which were the various Nations where Jews had been “dispersed”. And those Places were called, “*Beit K’neset*” (House of Assembly) in Hebrew and “*Synagogos*” in Greek. And it is very possible that the very *first* Synagogue was built in Greece between 150-128BC.¹

Now as Time went on- the Synagogues also began to act as “*Teaching Centers*” as well as Places to pray and offer Sacrifice. And, by the 1st Century- they were scattered all over Israel- to help bring the Jews back to God. Again, that is a noble Idea- but NOT one that God instructed Moses about. So, the idea of “Synagogues” is purely a Man-made Idea that is NOT taught in the 39 Books of the Old Testament.

So, this Synagogue “Official” came to Jesus and said,

"My daughter has just died; but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live."

Now Matthew doesn’t tell us; but Jesus may have seen that this man believed that He was God and so, was genuinely saved. But it may have been simply that Jesus was merciful and started to go to that man’s house for no other reason than he asked Him.

But as Jesus was on His Way to that “Official’s” House- the great crowds that were ALWAYS around Jesus followed Him. And that brings us to the sick Woman.

¹ Chabad.org

We need to remember that as Jesus walked- there may have been 10 or 20 or even 30,000 people surrounding Him. And many within that huge crowd were either sick themselves or knew someone who was. In addition, there were dying people and demon possessed people in that crowd. So, everyone in that huge crowd wanted Jesus to do something for them. They needed Healing; or for Him to raise someone back from the Dead; or they were demon possessed; or they were hungry; or even had had something Unfair or Unjust happen to them that they wanted Jesus to adjudicate.

The Point I am making is that this crowd was very, very large; very, very noisy; and they were very, very physical. So, there would be thousands of people crying out, "*Son of David!*" or "*Lord!*" or just, "*Help me!*" or "*Please help my baby!*" And there were also thousands of people trying to push their way through the Crowd to get to Jesus. There may have even been fighting and shoving and other forms of Violence in that Crowd as well. We need to always remember that these people were the most desperate people on earth. So, they may not have always been polite. And they also may not have always abided according to "*Roberts Rules of Order*".

Now the **Gospel of John** is called, the "*Spiritual Gospel*"- because it focuses on the Deity of Jesus. But the Gospel Records of **Matthew**; **Mark**; and **Luke** are called, the "*Synoptic Gospels*"- which means: "seen together". And that means that many of the Events that Matthew put into his Gospel Record are also recorded for us in either **Mark** or **Luke** or both.

And in **Luke 8:41**- we find that the Synagogue Official's name, who had the Daughter who died, was "Jairus". And the Event of this sick, bleeding Woman here in Matthew- is also found in both John Mark's as well as Dr. Luke's Record. So, in **Luke 8:43-48**- we read this:

43 And a woman who had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and could not be healed by anyone,
44 came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped.
45 And Jesus said, "Who is the one who touched Me?" And while they were all denying it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing in on You."
46 But Jesus said, "Someone did touch Me, for I was aware that power had gone out of Me."
47 When the woman saw that she had not escaped notice, she came trembling and fell down before Him, and declared in the presence of all the people the reason why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed.
48 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

... which illustrates how the Crowd was pushing in on them and so, they had no idea who had touched Jesus.

And so here in this account- Dr. Luke gives us tremendous insight into Jesus' Ministry. Jesus' Ministry was literally filled with all kinds of Interruptions. He would be walking in one direction to go do something and then somebody would call Him to go in another Direction. And from that we see that Jesus was very accessible to the people. He was available to reach to save and to heal and to prove His Own "Messiah-ship". So, Jesus was "interruptible" and He was inexhaustible in dealing with people's Needs.

And in His earthly Ministry- Jesus was very used to being interrupted. I mean, He'd be preaching a Sermon and right in the middle of the Sermon- all of a sudden- the roof would come apart and down would come somebody in a bed. Everybody who wanted something- interrupted Jesus. And being "*Interruptible*" or having the Divine Characteristic of being able to be interrupted by a Sea of needy Humanity was a very godly Virtue of Jesus. And when you begin to see this- it is absolutely amazing.

No matter what He was doing- Jesus would turn to help. He's Preaching and Teaching in the 12th Chapter of **Luke** and the good doctor wrote this in verse 13,

Someone in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.

Whoa! Can you imagine some guy standing up in the middle of my Sermon and say, "*Hey, Pastor, tell my brother to give me half of the money I'm owed!*" What? That would be *unthinkable*- but Jesus was interrupted all the time. And as God- Jesus never had a Problem with His "train of thought"- which allowed Him to always be "Interruptible".

Now here in this Section we see a desperate Father- who also happened to be a Ruler of the Jews. And Jesus is moved with Compassion; and He's trying to get through this Crowd to get to this man's house in Capernaum. And all of a sudden- this woman- who has had a terrible bleeding Problem for twelve long years- which is as long as Jairus' daughter was alive- reaches through the Crowd to touch Jesus. Jairus and his family had had twelve years of wonderful Joy with their little girl while this woman was having twelve years of Suffering.

Now we don't exactly know what this woman's Problem was- but it was enough to take up twelve long years of her Life and literally turn her into an Outcast. Because we have to try to think about what the physical Effects of having an "Issue of Blood" for twelve years would have been for a Woman in 1st Century Israel. There would have been a tremendous loss of Blood the entire Time- which

would have resulted in a loss of Strength and Stamina. And along with that physical Weakness would have been the real danger of Death. So, there would have been severe physical Effects.

But what may have been even Worse than that- was the severe *social* Effects. Because back in **Leviticus 15** beginning in verse 19, it says,

When a woman has a discharge, if her discharge in her body is blood, she shall continue in her menstrual impurity for seven days; and whoever touches her shall be unclean until evening.

So, a woman's regular monthly Cycle was used by God as an Illustration of the Need to be regularly purged and purified. It was a Way to remind the people that they needed Purification. And so, all Women were considered- during that Time- to be "Unclean"- as a sort of Symbol for the *spiritual* Uncleanness of the Heart. But this Woman would never be able to be anything but Unclean because this Blood never stopped for twelve long years!

So, what happened when a Woman was Unclean *ceremonially*? Well, she couldn't go to the Temple and she couldn't go to the Synagogue, either. But think about this- as Unclean- she also couldn't be with her Husband. And she couldn't touch her Family- couldn't even touch her own Children! The Law of Moses taught that she was considered ceremonially Unclean- and she would transmit that ritual Uncleanness- that symbolic Uncleanness- to anybody she touched!

So, socially- this poor Woman was an Outcast- even to her own Family! So, even though this Woman had a real, serious physical Problem- it also carried with it a ritual Defilement- that, in many Ways, could have been even *worse* than the *physical* Effects!

And in that Condition- she never could be taught the Word of God. And she couldn't go and worship God; and she couldn't go and learn. She couldn't hear the Word of God read. And in her Fear and in her Distress- this Woman couldn't even have been embraced by her own Husband; or her Father; or her Mother; or her own Children!

The Scrolls were all locked up in the Synagogue and so she was isolated from everything that could offer her any Comfort and Support and Hope. And then on top of all that- Luke says here that she couldn't be healed by anybody- nothing worked. She tried *everything* and yet she was never any better.

Now remember, Luke is a trained Physician. And so, he has a Desire to protect his own Profession. So, Luke basically says that her Problem was incurable. But over in **Mark 5:26**- John Mark says that this Woman:

... had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse —

...so obviously Mark was *not* in the medical Profession.

And by saying this- John mark was illustrating that even 2,000 years ago- it was expensive to go to the Doctor. Now in my Research into the background of this- the Talmud says this was a *common* Malady- excessive bleeding, hemorrhaging like this for Women- that it was relatively common. And they had some Cures that were sort of “*legitimate* Cures”- some kind of Astringents or some kind of Toxins were used- it's hard to find exactly what they were. And that would be some “*legitimate* Effort” made by some *legitimate* Practitioner who would serve, for the most part, the Rich- who could afford to pay.

But on the other hand, I read that there were also some medical Quacks back then who took people's money- promising them Cures that could never work. So, I read about other Efforts to cure Problems like this by carrying the Ashes of an ostrich egg in a linen bag around your neck in the Summer and a cotton bag in the Winter. Another one was to carry barley corn that was put inside donkey dung. So even back then- there were some real Fakers and Pied Pipers and Snake Oil Salesmen going around saying that they could heal people. And this Woman may have been deceived into giving some of these Charlatans all her money.

And there are some other things that were used like crushing alum into a solution of wine and crushing onions into a solution of wine, and other weird Concoctions. So, it didn't matter whether it was suffered at the hands of *reputable* Practitioners, or the *non-reputable* ones. None of it did any good. She couldn't get any help at all and **Mark 5:26** says that she...

... Spent all she had

So, all her money was in the pockets of the Practitioners now. And this poor sick Woman had nothing left. All her money is now gone. And by this Time- she has no Connection with her Family either. She can't connect with anybody in the Society. And she is in this terrible, physical Condition of Debilitation, and along with it goes the social Stigma and the Shame and the Embarrassment associated with it.

But she's heard about the healing Power of this Man named, “Jesus”. And she's at the complete other end of the social Spectrum from the Ruler of the Synagogue.

And she is aware of what the acceptable Boundaries are for her, but she's reached the Point where she doesn't care anymore. She was desperate- even as Jairus was desperate. And being desperate- neither

one of those people cared anymore what was or what was not Acceptable.

Jairus is going to fall on his face before Jesus and plead and beg for the great Healer with the Power of God to heal his daughter- *regardless* of the Rules or *whatever* other people might think. And this pitiful Woman is going to go in there and she couldn't care less about what's Acceptable in terms of the Tradition or even the Law. She is going to get to Jesus if she has to push her Way through the whole Crowd of people and grab Him.

And this is a Type of the very same Desperation that every single human goes through with true and genuine Salvation. It doesn't matter what your social Background is; or your economic Position; or your Education. Those who are chosen will come to Jesus as broken; diseased; bleeding; dead people with no Hope. And being fully aware of their own Unworthiness- they will push through every Obstacle- and they will not be denied. And they will beg Jesus for a Salvation that they know they do not deserve. Now look again at **Luke 8:43 &44:**

43 And a woman who had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and could not be healed by anyone,

44 came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His **1** cloak, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped.

This frail; weak; sick Woman, who has been in this terrible Condition for 12 long years, came up behind Jesus. And the reason she came up *behind* Him is that she was hoping to avoid being noticed. That's indicated down in verse 47 when the woman saw that she had *not* escaped Notice. She was trying to be as quiet and unnoticed as she could be- she tried to just blend in with the Crowd. And as Jesus walked by and this noisy Sea of Humanity was pushing on Him; and reaching out to touch Him; and calling out to Him. And His disciples were acting like Guards- pushing the Crowd back- and trying to make a Path for Jesus to walk through- and in the midst of all this Confusion and Noise and physical Shoving and Pushing- there was this Woman. And right there- in the middle of the Crowd- a frail white weak arm stuck out- with trembling fingers reaching out to touch Jesus. She knew she was an Outcast and never thought in a million years that anyone with Jesus' Popularity would have wanted to spend five seconds to help her.

She is just like a Leper. And she just kind of works her way through the Crowd- coming up behind Jesus just to touch the Border of His Cloak as He passes by.

Now according to the Old Testament Law- in **Numbers 15:37- 41** and **Deuteronomy 22:12**, God had ordained that in the Robe of a Jew there was to be woven a blue Cord to identify him as a Jew. And at the corners of the Robe there

were to be Tassels made of that same Cord, hanging down. That was to identify a Jew. And Jesus wore such a Robe with Tassels hanging from it.

Now the Pharisees- who wanted to be viewed as the most devout of all people- made their tassels huge which you would expect. And **Matthew 23:5** says these false hypocritical religious Leaders actually *enlarged* those Tassels to give the false Appearance that they were more holy than anyone else.

And so, this Woman comes up behind Jesus and she grabs the fringe- the *kraspedon* in the Greek. Now the word "touched" here is a middle form of the verb, *hapto* or *haptomi*. And in the middle form- this verb means: *to fasten on to; to cling to; or to clutch with force or desperation*. So, this is not a light tap here- this Woman was literally *clutching* the fringe of Jesus' Cloak with Force and Desperation!

Now I want you to try to see this Picture. This is a desperate and sick Woman- who has been sick for twelve long years. And by this time- she is a total Outcast- not only from Society at large- but also even her own Family. She may at one Time have been quite wealthy- but she has spent her entire Fortune on Doctors and now she is probably on the streets begging for food.

And as an Outcast- she is not welcomed or invited to be around the religious "big shots". And she can't even go into the Temple. And here is Jesus passing by- and she risks *everything*- and goes against all Protocol and social Etiquette to do what she did. And she finally gets there- and this is her last final Hope! So, she reaches out in complete Desperation and she literally grabs His Robe and hangs on to it. And this is the same exact Greek verb used in **John 20:17** of Mary Magdalene- who after the Resurrection grabs on to Jesus and clings to Him.

Now why did this sick woman do this? Because in **Matthew 9:21b** she kept saying to herself

If I only touch His garment, I will get well.

So, this Woman believed that Jesus was God. And so, she knew His Power and she believed in Him. And so, she didn't need for Him to even speak to her or lay hands on her. She knew that if she could only grasped His Garment- she would get well! And this is in the imperfect tense which means that she *kept on* saying this to herself; just kept repeating it over and over to herself,

"If I can just touch Him; if I can just touch Him"

And she kept repeating this to herself- to give herself Courage to do what was a clear breach of the Law of Moses as well as the social Etiquette of 1st Century Israel. This Woman believed there was so much Power flowing out of

Jesus- that if she just touched the Tassels of His Robe- she'd be healed. And you know there's some Truth to that. Jesus was never stingy with His miraculous Healing. It just gushed out of Him- to everyone around Him.

So, she reached out and grabbed hold and she clung to the fringe of His Robe- grasping it with Force and Desperation and clutching it in Faith that, because this Man was God- there was so much Power available- that if she just got that close and hung on- it would flow to her Body. And it did! She was right! She was absolutely right! And it says at the end of verse 44:

... and immediately her hemorrhage stopped.

Bang! Just like that! 12 long years of Torment was instantly removed from her! Now this is not Superstition- this is Faith in the Power of Jesus; and the Belief that as God in human Flesh- Jesus had such immense Power that just flowed out of Him. And this dear sick Woman was like a “broken reed”- she was a “flickering wick”- and Jesus mercifully fanned the flame; and restored her Song; and her hemorrhage stopped! And when that happened- Jesus immediately stopped and said,

Who touched Me?

... and we will get into this in more detail- next Time.

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.